REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 8-19 remain in the application. Of these, claims 1-3, 8-16 and 18 stand rejected; claims 4 and 17 stand objected to as being dependent upon other rejected claims, but are otherwise allowable; and claim 19 is new. Claims 5-7 have been canceled.

1. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 8-16 and 18 under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1-3, 8-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Krech, Jr. et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,779,140; hereinafter "Krech").

To begin, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended (without adding new matter) to incorporate the limitations of original claims 5-7. As a result, the Examiner's rationale for rejecting claims 5-7 is now applicable to claim 1. However, applicant notes that the Examiner never indicates where Krech teaches a local controller that "polls [a] memory to detect the presence of [a] remote test instruction and switches from [a] control mode to [a] slave mode upon detecting the remote test instruction." Applicant does not believe Krech contains any such teaching. Although Krech teaches a DUT tester 6 that fetches instructions from memory, applicant cannot find any mention by Krech of memory "polling", or of switching from a control mode to a slave mode in response to "polling".

As amended, claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Claims 2, 3, 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from claim 1.

With respect to claim 10, applicant has amended this claim to recite that the method is "implemented by a local controller of a test system". Applicant believes this amendment does not add new matter, as support is found, at least, in original claim 10. Applicant believes this amendment better clarifies the scope of claim 10.

In rejecting claim 10, the Examiner asserts that Krech teaches "switching from a control mode. . .to a slave mode" in FIGS. 1, 3 and 6. However, applicant cannot ascertain where these figures show the actions that are taken by their disclosed

Page 6 of 8

hardware. Although Krech teaches a plurality of test sites operating in a slave mode (see, Title), applicant cannot find any teaching regarding "switching from a control mode. . .to a slave mode" in response to "detecting a remote test instruction received from a remote controller." Claim 10 is therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 11-16 and 18 are believed to be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from claim 10.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated claims 4 and 17 would be allowable, if rewritten to overcome the rejections of their base claims. Claims 4 and 17 have been so amended, without the addition of new matter.
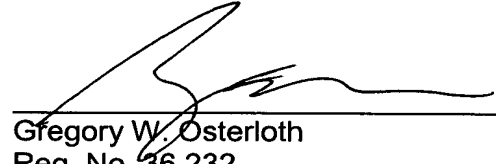
3. New Claim

New claim 19 is believed to be allowable for reasons similar to why claim 1 is believed to be allowable, and because Krech does not show a local controller that "detects the presence of [a] remote test instruction by checking a semaphore, and upon detecting the remote test instruction, switches from [a] control mode to [a] slave mode."

4. Conclusion

Given the above Amendments and Remarks, applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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By: _____

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